



Southwest Area Type II Incident Management Team KP Incident

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Wednesday, May 26, 2004
10:00 p.m.

KP Fire managers started today with a round-the-clock burning operation planned to go through Friday. The burnout takes advantage of favorable weather forecasts and availability of Hot Shot crews. This strategy should stop the southern and western progression of the fire.

Today's burnout was highly successful. This afternoon the fire continued to back down the face of the Mogollon Rim toward Raspberry Trail. It is moving into steeper more broken topography and lower elevations as it backs down off of the Rim. Vegetation in this area includes ponderosa pine and mixed conifer in drainages and on north/east-facing slopes and oak and mountain mahogany chaparral situated on the ridgetops and south/west-facing slopes.

The KP Fire is about 10,056 acres. The acreage reduction is due to more accurate GPS mapping. Yesterday's greater reported acreage was based upon an estimated perimeter due to poor visibility. The fire actually did accrue overall growth due to spread on the southwest flanks.

The fire's northern perimeter is contained by a previous wildfire. Currently the fire continues to creep east through sparse vegetation in the Blue Range Primitive Area. It is expected to burn into pockets of vegetation where it will be contained by the limited use of firelines.

The closest structures to the fire's perimeters are Hannagan Meadow Lodge 3 miles north, residences on the Blue River 4 miles east, and a Forest Service Administrative Site near Strayhorse Campground on the western edge. None of the structures are imminently threatened.

NOTE: U.S. Highway 191 will remain closed until further notice, to provide for firefighter and public safety. Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest administrators have closed Hannagan Meadow campground. Hannagan Meadow Lodge remains open to people who have prior arrangements to visit.

**KP Incident Information Center
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